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(*b*) if so, whether it is the Revenue Department or the Public Works Department that is responsible for the delay, and for what reasons ;

(*c*) whether steps will be taken to expedite the distribution of those lands ;

(*d*) whether the Government intend giving the lands to non-depressed classes and await a higher bid for those lands from the neighbouring rich ryots ; and

(*e*) how long the question of distribution has been pending?

A.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) & (*e*) The lands were disforested in 1924. The question of assignment of the disforested land was pending in November 1927. According to the report received from the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd November 1927, the assignment of land in the area was pending a decision on the question of providing facilities for irrigating it and the matter was the subject of correspondence between the officers of the Revenue and the Public Works Departments. The Government have no more recent information on the subject but have called for a report.

(*d*) There is no such proposal before the Government.

Assignment of waste lands to Christian missionaries for distribution to depressed classes.

*1762 *Q.*—Mr. V. RAMJEE RAO : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of acres of waste land assigned to depressed classes in each district of the Presidency ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Christian Adi-Andhras were also given lands ;

(*c*) if the answer is in the affirmative, what is the percentage of acres of land assigned to them in each district ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the lands in some of the districts of the Northern Circars are assigned to Christian missions and missionaries for distribution to the depressed classes ;

(*e*) whether pattas for the land are issued to the assignees ; and

(*f*) whether it is a fact that some of the previous Collectors of the Kistna district have given lands to the Christian missions and whether thereby the missionaries have imported the members of the depressed classes from other districts and got them settled in the places where the lands were given to them after converting them to Christianity ?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to statement No. VII in the Administration Report of the Labour Department for 1926–27 embodied in G.O. No. 2434 L., dated 26th October 1927 which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*b*) & (*c*) Lands may have been assigned to Christian Adi-Dravidas as members of the depressed classes. The Government have no information about the extent assigned to them in each district.

(*d*) & (*f*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the provisions of paragraph 38 (*c*) of Board's Standing Order No. 15. Under the orders in force lands may be assigned to approved

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societies including missionary societies acting on behalf of the depressed classes. The Government do not know whether land has been assigned to the Christian Missionary Societies in the districts referred to; and have no reason for thinking that the facts are as stated in clause (*f*).

(*e*) Pattas are issued in the names of the persons or societies in whose favour the land has been assigned.

Mr. V. Ramjee Rao :—"Since the hon. the Revenue Member is not in his place, may I be allowed to ask the question, Sir?"

The hon. the President :—"There are other hon. Members of the Government who can reply to the question."

(Just then the hon. the Revenue Member entered the hall.)

Mr. V. Ramjee Rao :—"With regard to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) the Government say they have no information. May I request the Government to get the information?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"Yes, Sir."

Land Revenue

Levy of ground-rent in rural and urban areas.

* 1763 Q.—Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to call for and lay on the table a talukwar statement of the excess of the ground-rent levied in all rural areas under Board's Standing Order No. 21 and in urban areas of this Presidency over the agricultural assessment for the years 1925–26–27 with the latest orders passed by them in 1927 as to revision of ground-rents during every resettlement period?

A.—Rupees 43,600 was paid in 1926–27 to municipalities as the excess of ground-rent over the agricultural assessment. No further particulars are available.

No orders have been issued for the revision of ground-rents during every resettlement period.

Public Service

Selection of applicants for personal interview.

* 1764 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: With regard to the answer to clause (*e*) of question No. 1226, referred to in question No. 1391 answered on 24th January 1928, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representations were at any time made to the Government that all the candidates who apply for posts should be called for a personal interview, and if so, when and by whom; and

(*b*) whether in view of the very large number of applications received for every post that is notified in the Gazette, the Government will consider the desirability of carefully scrutinizing the applications in the first instance and calling only the most suitable candidates for a personal interview?